

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker and Christopher Martin; Visitors: Karen Bingham, Brett Engstrom, Art Gilman, Michelle McCormick, Rich Phillips, Nick Seifert, Michael Sabourin

At 5:32 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** Request for discount on multi-day rentals

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments not related to the agenda.

**Minutes:** Approval of the June 21, 2022 minutes were tabled since Rich B. was not at that meeting and Michele Gonzales was not present at this meeting. The July 5, 2022 minutes were approved with an amendment as follows: “Chris moved that if there is no action on the existing Notice of Violation **by July 31, 2021**, the Town will pursue legal action through the Town Attorney.”

**Cattle:** Karen Bingham was present and discussed the issues with Greg Bradley’s cattle running at-large. Chris reported that he had spoken to Greg about the problem and that Greg said he would give permission to shoot the at-large cows. Karen said she did not want the responsibility to shoot the cows. After further discussion, Chris said that he would contact Greg and ask for written permission for someone to shot the cows and would contact the game warden to see if they can assist with the situation.

**Solar Projects:** Rich P. discussed a potential community solar project. He said the Maple Hill School may be a potential site. He explained that the project involves some members from the Energy Committee. However, there is no request for the project to be sponsored by the town. Nick discussed the potential for an off-take solar project. According to the town attorney, no town vote is required since no expenditures are involved. The town would get a one-year rolling credit. The Fire Station meter is a good candidate for the credits since it’s electric use is approximately equal to the amount of town electricity that is not covered by the current solar panels. Nick will have more details about the potential partners at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Rental Discount Request:** Michelle discussed her need for an 8-day rental at the OSC. She is requesting a discount on the daily rate. Rich moved, and Chris seconded, to approve a 30% discount for rentals equal to or exceeding 5 consecutive days. This shall be an amendment to the current rental policy after it is reviewed to make sure this provision does not conflict with any other provisions in the policy.

**Recreational Economy for Rural Communities grant:** Michelle asked about the status of this project. Rich said that this project should begin soon.

**School Street Bridge Replacement:** Art asked about the status of the project. Chris said that the

contract is being simplified from the draft contract. Rich said that the project is scheduled for October.

**Stranahan Management Plan:** Chris moved, and Rich B. seconded, to approve the management plan as presented". Motion was approved. Chris asked whether it would make sense to have one committee to oversee Stranaham Forest, Covered Bridge, and the Town Forest. Brett said he would discuss the idea with the Stranaham Committee. Rich P. said that there is a need for a management plan for the Covered Bridge Park.

**Picnic Shelter at OSC:** Rich P. said that his son has almost completed the building plans and that Rich P. was developing a site plan. Rich B. noted that all both a zoning permit and a state building permit are required to be secured to apply for the Building Communities Recreation grant. The deadline for grant submittals is September 10<sup>th</sup>. Rich P. said he would coordinate the state building permit. Rich said that the zoning application has been submitted and that he will check about the status of the DRB hearing. He said he will also request letters of support from the community garden group, the Recreation committee, and the Friends of the Library. He said he would begin to draft the grant request. The cost is estimated to be about \$50,000 for construction, electrical work, extending the water line, and purchasing picnic tables. The grant requires a 50% match from town funds and cannot use state or federal funding. The Selectboard agreed that the minimum grant needed would be \$18,000 and that funds would come from the OSC dedicated funds.

**OSC Building Committee:** Rich B. said the next meeting will be August 4, 2022 at 6 p.m. Rich P. said that he thought ARPA funds should not be used for deferred maintenance and that these costs should be covered by the general budget. Chris and Rich B. explained that there are currently inadequate funds to cover the extensive deferred maintenance. Rich B. said that more funds should be put into dedicated funds, but that the deferred maintenance needs to be addressed now. Chris also noted that some of the ARPA funds will be needed to cover the School Street bridge repair since the costs exceeded the budgeted funds. Rich B. also noted that some of the ARPA funds were already approved for items the road crew requested so that they can do their job more efficiently.

**Fence Repair:** The Selectboard approved repairing the fence for \$570 and to use the OSC dedicated funds. This repair shall be done in conjunction with the fence work being done at the sewer plan to receive a discounted price.

**Picnic Tables:** The Selectboard agreed to purchase four cedar picnic tables at a \$499 per table from Jason Zimmerman. It was decided that the additional costs for cedar tables was worth it given their life expectancy.

**Dog Complaint- Creamery St/ Library Playgroup:** A letter has been sent to the possible owner. This item is on hold until the owner can be determined.

**Cabot Rd/Route 2:** Rich B. moved, and Chris seconded, to approve the Notice of Conveyance. Motion approved.

**Modification of cemetery rules:** This item was tabled.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Baker

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 19, 2022 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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